



We remember in our prayers

- The Pastor and Robert as they prepare for all the extra Services over this Christmas period.
- Continue to remember those within the fellowship who still need our prayers. Augie, Marina, Betty, Gwen Race, Beryl and Michelle and others who are a bit fragile at the moment.
- For all those in the sheltered homes who we will be visiting over the month.
- The distribution of the Christmas leaflets around the estate, that those who read them might discover the true meaning of Christmas and want to celebrate with us.
- Glennis, and the rest of the family, following the death of her brother Ron.
- Joyce Waldrige, who is in hospital, and whose health is causing some concern.

The new Communion preparation rota will be available in the new year. The list of those willing to do this is getting smaller so if this is a something you think you could help with please see Colin.



The Christmas Post Box will be available again this year for you cards within the fellowship on the 10th December. Sorting will take place during the following week and cards will be ready for your collection on 17th December. We are grateful to the Coffee Connect Group who undertake this task each year. Donations, in lieu of postage, may be placed in the tin on top of the post box and will go to EACH.

We give thanks to God.....

- For our dear friend Phyllis Brinkley, whose life we will celebrate on 6th December at 1.30pm at Whitehouse Baptist Church. Please continue to remember the family in your prayers in the days to come.
- For the generosity of the fellowship in the Shoe Box appeal, we collected 127 boxes this year which will make Christmas more special for the children who will receive them.
- For the great time we had at Messy Church last month and for the new families that came along.
- That Andrew is able to join with us in worship again and that his operation was successful and the wound is healing.



Talitha Koum are holding a Carol Service on Friday 15th December at Shepherd Drive Baptist Church at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Full details are on the notice board in the Church.



We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays

- December 8th - Lynette Bullard
- December 9th - Jackie Tribe
- December 12th - Maureen Dorks
- December 13th - Janet Russell
- December 19th - Adrian Bullard
- December 23rd - Martyn Dew
- December 26th - Terry Holland



A Quiet Word

December 2017

Some buy new. Some search out what has been used before. Some get nostalgically attached to what has been there in the past. Christmas decorations! For some it's a leisurely pace. For others it has all the speed and urgency of a sprint race. Christmas preparations! Whatever, it's a time for celebration as we rejoice in the truth of the miraculous and exciting birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

Did you know that some things that we take for granted in the Christmas story aren't there at all? The innkeeper and donkey of nativity performances are not mentioned in the biblical account – neither for that matter are the three kings..... What we do know is that his birth actually happened in Bethlehem. We do know that his birth was extra special as the angels filled the night sky with their chorus of "Glory to God in the highest". We do know that shepherds visited the baby and their lives were transformed. We do know that magi followed the star which led them to the one "born to be king" and worshipped him as they presented their precious gifts.

What we do know is that God sent his Son into the world – our world – so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

During the last month we thank God for the induction of Robert as Minister in Training and that some of the organisations are reporting encouraging numbers and times. November has also been tinged with sadness because Phyllis, who was so special and precious, has gone to be with Jesus. We thank God for those lovely memories we have and we continue to pray for her family in their loss of a remarkable lady.

Christmas is a special time for us as a church family and we remember in prayer those who are lonely, bereaved, unwell and anxious – that they may know the presence and transforming blessings of the One whose birth we celebrate.

Christmas Blessings and Love

Norman

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CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

To love and serve God in our local community



THE CHURCH DIARY

DECEMBER - 2017



December 2017

Saturday 2nd	1.00pm - 5.00pm	Private Booking	
Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Norman	Communion
		No Evening Service	
Monday 4th	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting	Barking
Tuesday 5th	12.30pm	Lunch Club and United Fellowship	
		<i>Margot Bafende</i>	
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade	
Wednesday 6th	1.00pm	Funeral of Phyllis Brinkley	
	7.00pm	Carols at Mayo Court	
Thursday 7th	10.30am	- 2.00pm	Double L Club
Saturday 9th	9.00am - 4.00pm	Private Booking	
Sunday 10th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast	
	10.30am	Robert	
	7.00pm	Connect Group	
Tuesday 12th	11.00am	Open the Book	Whitehouse School
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade	
Wednesday 13th	10.00am	Coffee Connect	
	6.30pm	Ignite	
Thursday 14th	7.30pm	Carols at Shamrock House	
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Norman / Robert	Communion
	5.00pm	All Age Service	
Monday 18th	7.45pm	Ladies Evening Group	
		<i>Informal Party Night</i>	
Tuesday 19th	12.30pm	Lunch Club and United Fellowship	
		<i>Norman Tharby</i>	
Thursday 21st	10.30am	- 2.00pm	Double L Club
	7.30pm	Carols at Dunwich Court	
Sunday 31st	10.30am	Robert Foster	
		No Evening Service	

Christmas Eve 24th	10.30am	Norman
	5.00pm	Carols by Candlelight <i>Mince Pies and Coffee</i>
Christmas Day 25th	10.30am	Family Worship

Please note: Rainbows meets each Thursday evening 5.00pm - 6.30pm in the Hall
Friday Friends (a dementia group) meet on Friday Mornings 9.30am - 1.00pm

Induction Thanks - Robert writes

Dear all, Just to say a big thank you to all those at WBC involved in my Induction service as your Minister in Training on 5th November. It was a special day especially sharing it with you all as well as family and friends from Rushmere, who I know enjoyed the lovely time of Lunch and fellowship afterwards. Thanks everyone for the cards, ongoing support, prayers and encouragement. It really means so much.
Blessings *Robert*



Back to Bananas



Our first home assignment has now drawn to a close – it's been enjoyable, exhausting, encouraging and at times exhilarating. It's been a combination of church visits, interspersed with family get-togethers and catch-ups with friends. Altogether we clocked up over 4,000 miles in our trusty little rental car – from South Wales to Middlesbrough to Watford and everywhere in between.



We have been so encouraged through our visits to many different churches and Christian groups. It seemed as if in every place we were given another piece of the jigsaw, which put together made up the message that God wanted to give us. We have been humbled and thankful to see the way in which people have been supporting and praying for us, and overwhelmed by the enthusiastic welcome we received. It was also wonderful to catch up with friends and family, and especially with our children. As we were based in Birmingham it meant we could be near to our daughter Josie who is studying at Aston University. Our son DJ, based in Newbury, was also not too far away. We were able to celebrate both of their birthdays, as well as an early Christmas, before our return. Now we're back in Wang Daeng and are thrilled to see that all of the banana trees we planted have come into fruit. We pray that this is a sign of what is to come as we continue to sow into the lives of the local community. Amen.



Julie would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts for Ignite. They had a great light party organised by Sue and Rachel resulting in three extra children and three more turning up the next time, two of which they had not seen for over a year. A real answer to prayer.



A reminder to all treasurers of organisations that their accounts need to be finalised for the year ready for auditing after December 31st. Terry Holland has agreed to do this again this year.

Any material for January Newsletter to the Secretary by Sunday 17th December please.